West Roxbury Dec 16 1846

Dear Mrs Chapman,

You did me the honor to ask me to write for the "Liberty Bell", and I beg you to believe that I felt gratified in being considered worthy a place in it. I should gladly have availed of the privilege offered me, could I have written any thing fit for its pages, and I tried to think of something that should contribute to awaken thought on the great subject to which you are dedicating your life.
I did not look around me for materials from which to weave a web for your little book. They came unbidden, as each successive day brought tidings from the distant South, telling how the white man's blood was fertilizing a soil for the irremediable bondage of the Black man. The ordinary means of communication, although exhausting the capabilities of Steam, were anticipated by the mysterious agency which with one shock wide proclaims each new aggression that prepares the perpetuity of Slave Power.
They also came from nearer our New England homes, where a few hours travel can exhibit scenes to remind us of our accountability to a God of justice. The imagination can portray no tale of human suffering which may not be outdone by the Domestic Slave trade - so near to us, that the cry of agony can almost reach us as ~~the~~

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parent & child are separated - We can read with horror a well told story of the African slave trade - we can curse the man who gives rum & gunpowder for human flesh, and can find pity for the poor creature who is taken from her palm thatched hut to the living grave of a slave ship. We can read of the "middle passage", and wonder that the Ocean did not swallow all - that such a mass of human misery might find relief and so much sin be punished - we have indignation for wrong & tears for suffering like this; but we have patience & much endurance for the tenfold crime daily going on at home. We have no hard words & no unkind thoughts when our neighbour is the slave trader - we can meet him pleasantly, and share with him the luxuries & sentimental refinements of social life - we can feast & flatter him, without a thought that the very clothes he wears are bought with the price of blood - that to support the extravagance, which makes him a desirable companion, he rears human beings for the shambles - His business is to breed & sell, not to take note of man & wife & child, unless as being worth so much per head - What has he to do with the feelings of a slave? Perhaps in a moment of interest he may feel a pang, when some household servant, who rocked his cradle, prays in anguish on her knees that she may not be robbed of all she loves on earth, and that her children, who played with him & endured his boyish tyranny, may not all be torn

from her — saving the rice fields of the far south may spare her one — But he recovers from his weakness & is a man again — "There is no friendship in trade" and able bodied men & women bring good prices — How shall his well trained Hoods be supported, or his table be covered with the wine over which he & his northern visitors shall talk of liberty & equal rights, and be warmed up to the great Destinies of this Republic, if he gives way to weakness & encourages the notion that a Slave may have affections —

Patriotism also demands of him some sacrifice, and his fellow countrymen who border on the Gulf, expect something of him — They must renew their gangs — For Cotton & Sugar & Rice are sad economists of life, and fresh machines are constantly required to fill the places of such as are worn out & disabled —

There is besides a continually increasing "area of freedom" to be supplied, and how shall the "star spangled" "Stripe" if the States, which fail to raise tobacco, do not breed Slaves?

There were also other themes — The perpetual encroachments of Southern power, the wrongs & insults to which our citizens are subjected, and the tameness with which we submit to repeated indignity, are among the many notes well fitted to be sounded by the "Liberty Bell" to New England ears —

It is not the want of a subject which has prevented me from complying with your request, nor the want of inclination to bear my testimony

if I thought it could do good, but I have hesitated to enter a field where there are so many abler & better than myself.

Allow me, therefore, to offer you the enclosed sum - to be appropriated to the expenses of the Book - which will serve it more effectually than any writing of mine.

I am very respectfully & truly
your friend & servt.
G. R. Russell

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